

1-27. (canceled)

28. (previously added) In combination,

(a) a vehicle having an area for receiving a wheelchair, and

(b) means for securing a wheelchair in said area to said vehicle, wherein said means for securing is permanently attached to said vehicle and comprises:

(i) means for engaging a portion of said wheelchair under tension, said means for engaging being locked to said vehicle at a predetermined location, and

(ii) a movable securing element having mounted thereon a housing and a flexible strap, said flexible strap having one end adjustably received in said housing and an opposite end adapted to engage a portion of said wheelchair in said area under tension, said movable securing element being movable with respect to said vehicle between an operating position wherein said housing is locked to said vehicle at a further location for cooperation with said means for engaging to secure said wheelchair and a storage position wherein said housing is remote from said further location, wherein said movable securing element is a bar mounted for pivotal movement about a vertical axis between said operating position and said storage position.

Please add new claims 29 and 30.

29. (new) A vehicle restraint system for a mass transit vehicle having
a longitudinal vehicle axis,
a floor, and sidewalls;
a securement area in said vehicle for receiving a wheelchair;
said restraint system including a rear attachment assembly secured with said vehicle near a rear portion of said securement area for securing said wheelchair at said rear portion;
wherein said system comprises:
a front anchor disposed at a front portion of said securement area spaced along said vehicle axis from said rear portion of said securement area;

a front attachment assembly carried by said front anchor including a pair of belts adapted to secure front locations of said wheelchair to said front anchor;

a stationary anchor included in said front anchor, and a first of said belts of said front attachment assembly carried by said stationary anchor;

a slide anchor included in said front anchor slidably carried by said stationary anchor, and a second belt of said front attachment assembly being carried by said slide anchor; and

said slide anchor carried for sliding movement transverse to said vehicle axis between non-operating and operating positions wherein said slide anchor is extended by sliding from said stationary anchor to said operating position so that said wheelchair may be secured by said second belt of said front attachment assembly to said slide anchor and by said first belt of said front attachment assembly to said stationary anchor.

30. (new) In a mass transit vehicle having

a vehicle axis,

a floor,

sidewalls,

a plurality of seats,

a wheelchair securement area, and

front and rear attachment assemblies for securing a wheelchair in said wheelchair securement area,

the method of positioning the front attachment assembly between a stowed position and a deployed position comprising:

providing a stationary member;

providing a first crank belt mechanism and maintaining said crank belt mechanism in a stationary position adjacent said stationary member;

providing a second crank belt mechanism;

providing a slidable anchor and mounting said second crank belt mechanism with said slidable anchor;

slidably mounting said slidable anchor and said second crank belt mechanism with said stationary member;

slidably mounting said slidable anchor and said second crank belt mechanism with said stationary member;

moving said slidable anchor and said second crank belt mechanism relative to said stationary member toward and transversely of said axis into an operating position extended from said stationary member; and,

moving said slidable anchor and said second crank belt mechanism relative to said stationary member away from and transversely of said axis into a non-operating position.
